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This Iowa DNR Water Quality Listserv is a subscription service that you have requested. Its purpose is to deliver timely water quality technical information directly to your email.

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### **ADDITIONAL LIMITS AND MONITORING FOR CONTROLLED DISCHARGE LAGOONS DISCHARGING INTO IMPAIRED WATER BODIES**

The Department of Natural Resources is adding additional NPDES permit limits and monitoring requirements for controlled discharge lagoons (CDL) that discharge to an impaired water body with approved TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) developed for water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. The new requirements are intended to ensure that CDLs are not a cause of the impairment.

For example, if a CDL discharges into a stream that is impaired for, including other parameters, bacteria, then this CDL's renewed NPDES permit will contain sample maximum bacteria limit and monitoring once every 2-weeks starting the third day after initiating discharge.

In the past, CDLs have not been required to monitor for bacteria and NPDES permits for CDLs have not contained bacteria limits. Discharge studies done by DNR and other states have consistently shown that CDLs that are designed and operated properly will not cause a stream to exceed the bacteria standard. But without these additional requirements, there would be no proof demonstrating that the CDL is adequately protecting the stream.

For more information, contact Angela Chen at (515) 281-4736 or [angela.chen@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:angela.chen@dnr.state.ia.us)

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### **OPERATOR CERTIFICATION INTERACTIVE WEBSITE GOES LIVE ON DECEMBER 13, 2006**

The Operator Certification program has developed an interactive website that will allow access to public information from the Iowa Operator Certification Database as of December 13, 2006. This database contains information concerning operators who hold Iowa certifications in water treatment, water distribution, wastewater treatment, lagoons, well drilling, pump installation and well plugging.

This new web application can be accessed on the IDNR Operator Certification Web Page <http://www.iowadnr.com/water/opcert.html> by clicking on the button titled *OPERATOR CERTIFICATION DATABASE* or it may be accessed directly at <http://programs.iowadnr.com/opcertweb/>.

The information found on the web database dynamically changes as data is altered in the IDNR database. Examples of data that can be found on an individual operator are

- active certificates.
- continuing education (CEU) details.
- exam registration information.
- exam status.
- renewal application status.

Information as it relates to operators and an individual water or wastewater system can be found on

- plant classification.
- system location.
- population served.
- system's actively employed operators, including who is the designated operator-in-charge.

Lists of certified operators and their mailing addresses, in either report or Excel spreadsheet form, may be acquired by selecting the desired criteria. For example, you can ask for a list of all the operators in IDNR Field Office Region 2 of Iowa who hold a grade 3, water treatment certificate or you can ask for Iowa certified pump installers both in-state and out-of-state.

The above mentioned examples are only a few of the useful functions of this new web application. Please log on after December 13, 2006, and check it out for yourself!! If you have any questions please contact the Operator Certification Program at 515/725-0284 or email us at [laurie.sharp@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:laurie.sharp@dnr.state.ia.us).

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## **DNR POSTS STATUS OF STREAM ASSESSMENT FIELD WORK FOR WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

The DNR is posting online updates of its progress as it conducts field assessments on Iowa rivers and streams to apply the appropriate water quality standards.

The assessments began this year as the DNR is checking to see if streams are fishable and swimmable, as presumed under new state legislation and DNR rules.

Until March 2006, approximately 12,000 miles of Iowa's streams were protected for aquatic life and 2,200 miles of Iowa's streams were protected for recreational uses. The

new legislation and rules expands protection to all 26,000 miles of Iowa's perennial streams.

"These field studies will help determine if these new uses are appropriate or not," said Lori McDaniel, supervisor of DNR's water resources section. "For example, we might find that a small stream that we thought was perennial actually dries up for part of the year and will not support aquatic life year round. We could also find streams that we thought did not support recreational or aquatic life uses actually do."

Of particular concern are the streams and rivers that receive a discharge from a facility with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Typically these facilities are industrial or municipal waste water treatment plants. The facilities may have to meet more stringent permit limits as a result of the increased protection.

The public will be able to check now if the field work portion of the stream assessment has been completed for affected NPDES facilities. Check the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.com/water/uaa.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/water/uaa.html).

The DNR will complete as many of the final assessments for each stream before field work begins again in March. "These reports will be posted as they are completed, with the first reports posting probably in February," said McDaniel.

The DNR will take recommendations to change the use designation through the formal rulemaking process in the spring of 2007.

McDaniel said that updating the water quality standards to protect more perennial streams brings the DNR closer to compliance with Federal Clean Water Standards and establishes new goals for water quality in Iowa.

For more information, contact Lori McDaniel at (515) 281-8094 or Adam Schnieders at (515) 281-7409.

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### **CWSRF PRIORITY LIST APPROVED**

On December 5, the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) approved the addition to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan of:

- Wastewater and stormwater loan requests for Baxter and Dubuque;
- Planning and design loan requests for Dubuque, Fort Dodge, Mineola, Treynor, and Welton; and
- A request for a General Non-Point Source loan by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to protect water quality in the Upper Iowa River.

The Department of Natural Resources updates the Intended Use Plan every quarter as needed. The deadline for projects for the next quarter is December 22, with approval by the EPC in March 2007. Projects must be on an approved IUP to be eligible to close a CWSRF loan.

For more information, go to [www.iowasrf.com](http://www.iowasrf.com) or contact Patti Cale-Finnegan at [patti.cale-finnegan@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:patti.cale-finnegan@dnr.state.ia.us) or 515-725-0498.